

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
LOG OF MEETING

CPSC/OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY

2000 JAN 12 A 9:30

SUBJECT: American Fireworks Standards Lab Activities

DATE OF MEETING: 12-6-99

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Pasty Semple

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: 1-10-00

LOCATION: CPSC

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Commissioner Mary Sheila Gall, Pasty Semple, Larry Herman

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): see attached participants list

SUMMARY OF MEETING: See attached summary

CPSA 6(b)(1) Cleared
No Mfrs/Prvt. Lbls. on
Products Identified
Excepted by _____
Firms Notified,
Comments Processed.

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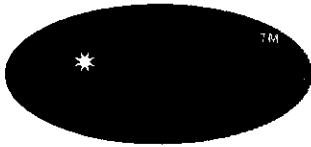
American Fireworks Standards Laboratory

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LIST OF AFSL PARTICIPANTS IN CPSC MEETINGS

Following is a list of representatives of the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory's (AFSL) scheduled to attend the December 6, 1999 meetings with Chairman Ann Brown, Commissioner Mary Sheila Gall and Commissioner Thomas Moore:

1. Royce Trout – Mr. Trout has been President of AFSL since October 1997. He is one of Founding Directors of AFSL and has been active on the Board of Directors since its inception in March 1989. He is President of Atlas Enterprises, Fort Worth, Texas, a manufacturer, importer, and distributor of 1.3G (display) fireworks.
2. Joel R. Anderson – Mr. Anderson is Vice-President of the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory. He served as AFSL's President from its inception in 1989 until October 1997. He is Chairman of American Promotional Events, Florence, Alabama, the largest importer and distributor of consumer fireworks in the United States.
3. John D. Rogers – Mr. Rogers is the Executive Director of the American Fireworks Standard Laboratory. Prior to joining AFSL in October 1992, Mr. Rogers worked in the Consumer Product Safety Commission Office of Compliance and Enforcement.
4. Elliot Belilos – Mr. Belilos is a partner in the law firm of Keller and Heckman, Washington, D.C. Mr. Belilos has served as General Counsel for the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory since 1992.



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MEETING WITH CPSC COMMISSIONERS **MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1999** **11:30 AM; 1:30; 2:30 PM**

SUMMARY

I. PURPOSE OF MEETING

To provide and update of AFSL activities and discuss any needed modifications to the AFSL program to improve the safety of fireworks and level of compliance with CPSC regulations.

II. BACKGROUND

- A. AFSL was established in 1989 to improve the quality and safety of fireworks manufactured in China and shipped to the U.S. Early focus was to develop standards incorporating all federal requirements for fireworks and monitoring efforts by factories to improve quality and safety, including encouraging in-house testing by the factories. CPSC participated in developing AFSL standards.
- B. Independent testing program was implemented in January 1994. The initial program was limited to Guangzhou area. The program was limited to 7 categories of fireworks identified as most likely to present a risk of injury. CPSC participated in determining which categories to test and in training of AFSL technicians.
- C. From the limited program established in 1994, AFSL has grown into a full scale-testing program covering all major product categories. The testing program now covers approximately 2 million cases of fireworks and is carried out in seven different regions in China. Program also includes advice and guidance to manufacturers in the form of annual seminars, factory newsletters, and direct meetings with factories to review test results for their products.

III. TESTING PROGRAM RESULTS

- A. Volume of Testing – Exhibit A.**
- B. Products Categories Tested – Exhibit B.**
- C. Compliance Rate by Year since 1994 – Exhibit C.**

IV. DIFFERENCES IN AFSL AND CPSC PROGRAMS

- A. Number of Shipments Tested**
 - 1. CPSC tests approximately 700 samples per year.**
 - 2. AFSL program tested approximately 14,000 lots in 1998.**
- B. Additional Provisions tested for by AFSL**
 - 1. CPSC Testing limited to CPSC regulations.**
 - 2. AFSL covers CPSC, DOT and AFSL Standards. Exhibit D.**

V. FUTURE ACTIVITIES/ MODIFICATIONS TO AFSL PROGRAM

- A. The addition of Lead to prohibited chemicals list – Testing by AFSL will begin in August 2000.**
- B. Testing braided firecracker strings for fuse burn time. Final implementation will take place in 2000. Should reduce the number of early ignition injuries.**
- C. Testing of Assortment Packages. Program has been developed by AFSL with assistance of China industry. Voluntary program will begin in January 2000. The Board will make a decision on final implementation date in January.**
- D. Additional Test Centers: Jiangmen, Beihai, and LiLing.**
- E. Test Remaining Categories: Sparklers, Party Poppers, Booby Traps, Chasers, and Assortment Packages.**
- F. Expand Scope of Factory Assistance – Meet with more factories directly to review product failures and discuss ways of correcting.**

VI. AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN AFSL AND CPSC

- A. Increase focus on illegal salutes and fireworks not tested by AFSL. Necessary resources to accomplish this would be made available by continuing to reduce surveillance of AFSL tested shipments.**
- B. Cooperate in the Development of a Test Procedure of Determining What Constitutes a Report in Aerial Devices.**
- C. Faster Reporting by CPSC of Results on AFSL-Tested Shipments.**

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